

### **Region 3, Goal 1: State Regional Issue/Priority Paper**

1. **Information Gathering:** Region 3 hosted a multi-state conference call on September 13, 2005 to discuss overall priorities and met with each Region 3 division director. In addition, state issues and priorities were solicited during the year through bi-annual meetings with State Secretaries in the Fall and Spring and through EPA/state planning meetings. Information is gathered within the media specific programs in several different ways such as: 1) annual Air Directors meetings; 2) quarterly MARAMA board meetings; 3) STAPA/ALAPCRO state-wide meetings; 4) Performance Partnership Agreements/Grants, and 4) grant negotiations, mid and end-of-year reviews.

2. **Description of Key State Issues/Priorities** (Most prevalent among states):

- Ozone non-attainment
- PM2.5 non-attainment
- Air Toxics
- Mercury (Upcoming priority as states submit rule to EPA for approval)
- Energy

#### **Comments on Strategic Plan Architecture:**

- Goal 1.1: Healthier Outdoor Air underplays the air transport issues which is a major issue in a highly industrialized area like Region 3.
- Increase focus on clean diesel and non-regulatory activities throughout architecture, reflected in 1.1.1: Cleaner Air; 1.1.2: Toxic Air Pollutants; and 1.5: Reduce Greenhouse Gas Intensity.
- Energy is a cross-cutting media issue that should be reflected in more than one goal (currently in Goal 1.5). As it is currently written, Goal 1.5 does not include everything such as advanced energy deployment.
- Radiation protection program: radon in drinking water should be highlighted in Goals 1 and 2.
- Needs to be stronger link between Goal 1 and Goal 5. Air enforcement supports air quality, would like to see integrated into Goal 1.

## **Region 3, Goal 2: State Regional Issue/Priority Paper**

1. **Information Gathering:** Region 3 hosted a multi-state conference call on September 13, 2005 to discuss overall priorities and met with each Region 3 division director. In addition, state issues and priorities were solicited during the year through bi-annual meetings with State Secretaries in the Fall and Spring and through EPA/state planning meetings. Information is gathered within the media specific programs in several different ways such as: 1) bi-annual State Directors meetings; 2) issue specific conference calls, 3) Performance Partnership Agreements, and 4) grants mid and end-of-year reviews.

2. **Description of Key State Issues/Priorities** (Most prevalent among states)

- Water Supply Capacity: issue focuses on whether the states have an adequate quantity of water and protecting and enhancing water quality for current and future supply sources.
- Non-Point Source: broad category that includes how to effectively regulate non-point sources such as: agricultural runoff, Combined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs); and acid mine drainage.
- Wet Weather: understanding impact of wet weather on Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)/Storm Sewer Overflows (SSOs) in an era of increasing amounts of impervious surfaces.
- Water Sustainability, Preparedness and Security: ensuring that there is a prepared and responsive water and sewer service capacity and sustainable infrastructure; wastewater side of security often overlooked.

**Comments on Strategic Plan Architecture:**

- Change title of Objective 2.2- Protect Water Quality to Watershed Restoration.
- Add following subobjectives to Objective 2.1 (and perhaps 2.2):
  - “Maintain Infrastructure and Services”: would focus on the drinking water and sewer preparedness, security and infrastructure sustainability issues;
  - “Protect Ground Water Sources of Drinking Water”: would centralize groundwater protection issues which are buried, fragmented and spread throughout the current architecture; surface water sources are treated more extensively and comprehensively;
  - “Unregulated Contaminant Response”: would cover many emerging threats to drinking water sources, e.g. pathogens, pharmaceuticals and personal care products, MTBE, perchlorate, radon, etc.
- Move objective 4.3- Ecosystems to Goal 2. Specifically move estuaries (4.3.1) and wetlands (4.3.2) to 2.2.1- Improve Water Quality on a Watershed Basis. These programs are vital to the restoration of watersheds and having them separate in the architecture does not reinforce that idea. The subobjectives pertaining to Great Lakes (4.3.3), Chesapeake Bay (4.3.4), and Gulf of Mexico (4.3.5) could be moved to Goal 2 as their own separate subobjectives.

- Radiation protection program: radon in drinking water should be highlighted in Goals 1 and 2.
- Currently, Goal 2 (mainly the Office of Water) and Goal 5 (mainly the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance) subobjectives, targets, and measures do not support or complement one another. There needs to be some common language in Goal 2 and Goal 5.

### **Region 3, Goal 3: State Regional Issue/Priority Paper**

**1. Information Gathering:** Region 3 hosted a multi-state conference call on September 13, 2005 to discuss overall priorities and met with each Region 3 division director. In addition, state issues and priorities were solicited during the year through bi-annual meetings with State Secretaries in the Fall and Spring and through EPA/state planning meetings. State input is also received through state waste agencies belonging to ATSWMO, which influences the NPM Guidance. Information is gathered within the media specific programs in several different ways such as: 1) State Directors meetings; 2) Monthly state programmatic calls and yearly Goal 3 calls 3) Performance Partnership Agreements/Grants, and 4) grant negotiations, mid and end-of-year reviews.

**2. Description of Key State Issues/Priorities** (Most prevalent among states):

- Multi-Media/ Holistic approach: Collaborating on multi-media solutions to identified environmental problems
- Land Revitalization
- One Cleanup program
- Resource Conservation Challenge

#### **Comments on Strategic Plan Architecture**

- Use of the word “conservation” may be more appropriate for the title of the Goal than the word “preservation.”
- “Land Protection and Restoration” should be the title, as discussions of municipal and hazardous wastes would be more appropriate with this title.
- “Protect Land,” rather than “Preserve Land” should be the title of objective 3.1.
- Include abandoned mine land and its treatment and reclamation in this goal.
- Move subobjective 4.2.3, Assess and Cleanup Brownfields, from Goal 4 to Goal 3 and have subobjective 3.2.2, Cleanup and Reuse Contaminated Land, with subobjective 4.2.3.
- Oil program should be more prominent in Goal 3, currently in 3.2.1.
- Add growth issues including reforestation and environmentally responsible development, which is already in the plan, to Goals 3 and 4.
- Move Waste Minimization/Pollution Prevention from objective 5.2. to be with Resource Conservation Challenge in subobjective 3.1.1, Reduce Waste Generation and Increase Recycling, because Waste Minimization/Pollution Prevention is related to Resource Conservation Challenge.

### **Region 3, Goal 4: State Regional Issue/Priority Paper**

**1. Information Gathering:** Region 3 hosted a multi-state conference call on September 13, 2005 to discuss overall priorities and met with each Region 3 division director. In addition, state issues and priorities were solicited during the year through bi-annual meetings with State Secretaries in the Fall and Spring and through EPA/state planning meetings. Information is gathered within the media specific programs in several different ways such as: 1) State Directors meetings 2) Monthly state programmatic calls 3) Performance Partnership Agreements/Grants, and 4) grant negotiations, mid and end-of-year reviews.

**2. Description of Key State Issues/Priorities (Most prevalent among states):**

- Chesapeake Bay: 1) reduce nutrient and sediment loads from agriculture practices, 2) reduce nutrient loads via upgraded wastewater treatment, and 3) watershed management in terms of development to reduce nutrient and sediment loads.
- Environmentally Responsible Development/ Sustainability: Utilize regulatory and financial assistance programs, as well as pilot projects and the EPA Smart Growth Network to integrate sustainable concepts into state programs.
- Multi-Media/ Holistic Approach: Collaborating on multi-media solutions to identified environmental problems
- Brownfields: One-Cleanup Program and non-traditional incentives in air, water, waste programs to encourage appropriate Brownfields redevelopment.
- Communities: special emphasis on low income and minority communities
- Public information /Environmental Indicators: Information to citizens to assist in making effective decisions and engage public through timely, accurate, accessible information, including environmental indicators.
- Wetlands: Protecting and enhancing wetlands: no net loss, voluntary wetland creation, wetland monitoring

### **Comments on Strategic Plan Architecture**

- Move subobjective 4.2.3, Assess and Cleanup Brownfields, from Goal 4 to Goal 3 and have subobjective 3.2.2, Cleanup and Reuse Contaminated Land, with subobjective 4.2.3.
- Add growth issues including reforestation and environmentally responsible development, which is already in the plan, to Goals 3 and 4.
- Move objective 4.3- Ecosystems to Goal 2. Specifically move estuaries (4.3.1) and wetlands (4.3.2) to 2.2.1- Improve Water Quality on a Watershed Basis. These programs are vital to the restoration of watersheds and having them separate in the architecture does not reinforce that idea. The subobjectives pertaining to Great Lakes (4.3.3), Chesapeake Bay (4.3.4), and Gulf of Mexico (4.3.5) could be moved to Goal 2 as their own separate subobjectives.

### **Region 3, Goal 5: State Regional Issue/Priority Paper**

1. **Information Gathering:** Region 3 hosted a multi-state conference call on September 13, 2005 to discuss overall priorities and met with each Region 3 division director. In addition, state issues and priorities were solicited during the year through bi-annual meetings with State Secretaries in the Fall and Spring and through EPA/state planning meetings. Information is gathered within the media specific programs in several different ways such as: 1) state enforcement meetings; 2) state planning conference calls; 3) state enforcement calls; and 4) Performance Partnership Agreements.

2. **Description of Key State Issues/Priorities** (Most prevalent among states):

- Wet Weather: understanding impact of wet weather on Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)/Storm Sewer Overflows (SSOs) in an era of increasing amounts of impervious surfaces
- Multi-Media/ Holistic Approach: Collaborating on multi-media solutions to identified environmental problems
- Financial Assurance
- Water quality/impaired waters
- Safe Drinking water
- Air quality/nonattainment areas
- Wetlands

#### **Comments on Strategic Plan Architecture:**

- Needs to be stronger link between Goal 1 and Goal 5. Air enforcement supports air quality, would like to see integrated into Goal 1.
- Currently, Goal 2 (mainly the Office of Water) and Goal 5 (mainly the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance) subobjectives, targets, and measures do not support or compliment one another. There needs to be some common language in Goal 2 and Goal 5.
- Move Waste Minimization/Pollution Prevention from objective 5.2. to be with Resource Conservation Challenge in subobjective 3.1.1, Reduce Waste Generation and Increase Recycling, because Waste Minimization/Pollution Prevention is related to Resource Conservation Challenge.
- Consolidate objectives 5.1: Improve Compliance and 5.2: Improve Environmental Performance Through Pollution Prevention and Innovation. If they are not consolidated, the language in these two objectives needs to make more distinctions between these objectives.